

**CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL
ARTS RECOVERY GRANT
AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA)
2009–2010 GUIDELINES**

ARTS RECOVERY GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA or Recovery Act) was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. It is an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, create or save millions of jobs, and address long-neglected challenges. The Recovery Act includes measures to modernize our nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.

The Recovery Act recognizes that the nonprofit arts industry is an important sector of the economy and, through the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), provides funds **to preserve jobs in the nonprofit arts sector**.

The California Arts Council (CAC) has been awarded \$502,400 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds from the National Endowment for the Arts. The CAC will award approximately 30 to 40 grants, through a competitive process, ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000.

California nonprofit arts organizations may receive Recovery Act funds from only **one** source:

- National Endowment for the Arts (grants awarded in June 2009),
- Designated governmental local arts agency,
- California Arts Council, or
- Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF).

ORGANIZATIONAL ELIGIBILITY

Organizations eligible to apply directly to the California Arts Council must have received a CAC grant through a core program in any given year from 2002-03 to the present. A list of potential applicants has been established. For eligibility, review the updated list at: www.cac.ca.gov/arra/eligiblegrantees.pdf.

Eligible nonprofit organizations include arts organizations, local arts agencies, arts service organizations, units of local government, and other organizations that can advance the goals of the Recovery Act.

Organizations applying for funding must comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws and ordinances.

GRANT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Recovery Act funds are intended to preserve jobs in the nonprofit arts sector threatened by declines in philanthropic and other support during the current economic downturn. Recovery Act awards are limited to:

Salary support, full or partial, for one or more positions that are critical to an organization's mission and that are in jeopardy or have been eliminated as a result of the current economic climate.

Organizations may request a grant ranging from \$5,000 and \$20,000.

GRANT PROGRAM TIMELINE AND DEADLINE

The online application will be accessible through the CAC website beginning July 23, 2009. The application link, provided by CultureGrants Online—the Western States Arts Federation's (WESTAF) online application system—is <http://california.cgweb.org> .

Eligible CAC applicants may also apply directly to WESTAF by answering questions appended by WESTAF to the CAC application. However, if determined to be fundable, an organization can receive only one grant—either from the CAC or WESTAF.

Electronic submission must be sent no later than 5:00 pm on Monday, August 24, 2009. Late, mailed or hand-delivered applications will not be accepted.

Adjudication by a peer review panel will take place in September. Award recommendations will be reviewed for approval by the California Arts Council in October. Applicants will be mailed notification letters immediately thereafter.

AWARD INFORMATION

Recovery Act grants are one-time and non-matching. In most instances, grants will be awarded for the amount requested

GRANT PERIOD

The period of support will be from November 1, 2009 to October 30, 2010.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Recovery Act grantees will be required to report monthly on the use of funds in a pre-determined format until all grant funds are expended.

APPLICATION REVIEW

The following criteria will be considered in the review of Recovery Act applications:

- *Quality of the organization:* Based on artistic mission, organizational history, service to constituents, and financial stability.
- *Significance of the position(s) to be supported to the mission and core work of the organization.*
- *Potential of the request to have a significant and immediate impact on organization:* Based on urgency of the needs of the position(s) to be supported and the effect on constituents served.
- *Likelihood that the position will be sustained beyond the one-year stimulus grant support:* Based on the plans to sustain funding for the position(s) in the near future.
- *Ability to carry through with the request including the appropriateness of the budget, the quality and clarity of the proposal, and the qualifications of the personnel involved.*

RANKING PROCESS

The panel's review of applications is a multi-step process and involves assigning numerical ranks to an application. The following is the ranking system used:

- 4 Designates an applicant as the highest priority for funding. "4" applications are considered to be "model" in stature and to meet all of the review criteria to the highest degree possible.
- 3 Considered good to excellent and receives funding after all "4" applications. This is a very good ranking and indicates a very solid organization that is approaching "model" status. It strongly meets the review criteria; however, some improvement or development is needed.
- 2 Considered to be marginally fundable. Funding, if available, may be awarded once all the "4" and "3" applications are awarded funding. These applications have some merit; however, they do not meet the criteria in a strong or solid way.
- 1 Not fundable under any circumstances; inappropriate for CAC support, extremely marginal in quality, etc. This application would not receive funding even if the funding were available.

Within ranking categories there is a possible "+" or "-" to indicate a greater or lesser degree of quality in the category. There is no "4+", "1+", or "1-" possible. Each ranking category and its gradations are translated into a wider numerical scale and all ranks are averaged to obtain the final ranking. Depending on the level of funds available and the number of applicants, a cutoff point will be made based on the ranking. Funding recommendations will be decided through this process.

PRE-AWARD DOCUMENTATION AND REQUIREMENTS

If an organization is selected as a Recovery Act grantee, the following documentation and agreements must be formalized. Please note: Applicants will not need to provide the documentation and agreements as part of the application process; rather, grantees will be required to provide the materials prior to the development of the grant agreement:

- **Proof of Employment Status:** Upon request, all Recovery Act grantees must present proof from the organization that the person to be employed with Recovery Act funds has been laid off, is scheduled to be laid off, had work hours reduced, or evidence of other circumstances that places the position(s) at risk. If proof in the form of memos, minutes, emails or other documentation is not available, the grantee's Chief Executive Officer or Board Chairman must sign a statement testifying to the fact that the person to be employed meets the requirements of this program.
- **Proof of Compensation Rate:** All grantees must present proof of the previous or current compensation rate for the person to be employed with Recovery Act funds.
- **Agreement to Fulfill Reporting Requirements:** There will be federal and state American Recovery and Reinvestment Act reporting requirements with which each grantee will have to comply on a monthly basis. The CAC will not issue a payment to the grantee unless all reports are current.
- **Non-Transferability:** In the event that a position within the organization designated to receive Recovery Act funding changes or is eliminated, the funds are not transferable to another position. A request can be made for such transfer; however, approval is not automatic.

GRANT OBLIGATION AND INVOICING

Recovery Act grantees will be obligated to federal and state reporting requirements throughout the duration of the grant. Invoicing will be on a reimbursement basis; however, there will be provisions for a 25% advance.